

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multimedia signal coding comprising:
 - audio signal coding means for coding an input audio signal;
 - audio data memory means for temporarily storing a coded output of said audio signal coding means;
 - 5 image signal coding means for coding an input image signal while controlling an amount of output data according to an external control signal
 - coded image data memory means for temporarily storing a coded output of said image signal coding means;
 - control data processing means for performing a predetermined data
 - 10 processing for an input control data;
 - control data memory means for temporarily storing an output of said control data processing means;
 - multiplexing means for multiplexing the data stored in said audio data memory means, said image data memory means and said control data memory
 - 15 means; and
 - output code amount control means for generating a control signal for controlling an amount of output data of said image coding means on the basis of the output data amount of said multiplexing means and notifying the generated control signal to said image signal coding means.
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2. A multimedia signal coding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output code amount control means includes calculation means for calculating a total amount of the data stored in said audio data memory means, said image data memory means and said control data memory means to obtain the amount
- 5 of output data of said image signal coding means on the basis of the total amount of the data.

3. A multimedia signal coding device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said calculation means includes determination means for obtaining a data transmission time by dividing the total data amount by a predetermined amount of data transmission per unit time of said multimedia coding device
5 and determining the amount of output data of said image signal coding means by comparing the transmission time with a requested transmission time requested for said multimedia signal coding device.

4. A multimedia signal coding device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said determination means includes means for decreasing the amount of coded image signal data when the transmission time is longer than the requested transmission time and increasing the amount of coded image signal data when
5 the transmission time is shorter than the requested transmission time.

5. A multimedia signal coding device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising multiplexed data memory means for temporarily storing the output of said multiplexing means, wherein said output code amount control means includes means for obtaining the amount of the output data of said image
5 signal coding means on the basis of the amount of data stored in said multiplexed data memory means.

6. A multimedia signal coding device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said means for obtaining the amount of output data includes determination means for obtaining a data transmission time by division of the amount of data stored in said multiplexed data memory means by a predetermined data transmission
5 amount of said multimedia coding device and determining the amount of output data of said image signal coding means by comparison of the thus obtained transmission time with the requested transmission time requested for

said multimedia signal coding device.

7. A multimedia signal coding device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said determination means includes means for decreasing the amount of coded image data when the transmission time is longer than the requested transmission time and increasing the amount of coded image data when the transmission
5 time is shorter than the requested transmission time.

8. An output code amount control method of a multimedia signal coding device for coding signals of different kinds including an audio signal, an image signal and a control data, respectively, multiplexing the coded data and then transmitting the multiplexed data, comprising the step of controlling an
5 amount of image data obtained by coding the image signal, correspondingly to data amounts of respective kinds of codes before or after the multiplexing process.

9. An output code amount control method as claimed in claim 8, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a total amount of data of audio data obtained by coding the audio signal, image data obtained by coding the image signal and control data
5 processed in a predetermined manner; and

obtaining a transmission time by a division of the thus obtained data amount by a predetermined data amount per unit time of the multimedia coding device and controlling an amount of image data on the basis of a comparison of the transmission time with a request transmission time
10 requested for the multimedia signal coding device.

10. An output code amount control method as claimed in claim 9, wherein

the step of controlling the amount of coded image data comprises the step of decreasing the amount of coded image data when the transmission time is longer than the requested transmission time and increasing the amount of coded image data when the transmission time is shorter than the requested transmission time.

11. A computer readable recording medium having said output code amount control method as claimed in any of claims 8 to 10 recorded as a program for executing said output code amount control method by a computer.

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